

to take over the same, and said commission thereupon without any further procedure, shall acquire and take over any such and all county roads, turnpikes or sections thereof or interests or rights therein, as in its judgment may be necessary or proper for the purpose of this Act, and with full power to widen, relocate, change or alter the grade or location thereof; and said commission shall have full power so to take over and take possession of any county road or abandoned turnpike, and to accept by gift or surrender, and to acquire by purchase or condemnation, any and all existing turnpikes or any sections thereof, or any rights or interests therein, subject to any outstanding occupation, use or franchise of any electric railway company or other public service corporation; and thereafter all highways, however acquired hereunder, shall be State highways and shall be constructed, improved and maintained by said commission for the State and at its expense, except as provided in Section 3.

6. The said commission, when about to construct any highway, shall advertise for at least two weeks in one or more newspapers published in each county in which the highway lies, and for three consecutive issues in at least one daily newspaper published in Baltimore City, for sealed proposals for the construction of said highway, accurately describing the same and stating the time and place for opening said proposals, and reserving the right to reject any and all proposals; said proposals shall be publicly opened at the time specified in said advertisement, and the contract for such work or for the supplies and materials required for such construction or for the supplies and materials required for such construction shall be awarded by the commission to the lowest responsible bidder, unless in the opinion of said commission the interests of the State shall be better served by awarding the contract to some other bidder, when this may be done; but said commission shall not be required so to advertise for proposals or to award any contract for any work or for any materials or supplies for any amount less than five hundred dollars (\$500) in the aggregate, or where the interests of the State shall be better served by purchasing cement without advertising for bids. The construction and improvement of all State highways or parts thereof shall be under the supervision and subject to the approval of the said commission, in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by the chief engineer and approved by said commission. In all cases where the contract for work and